Virginia Gazette, & Petersburg Intelligencer.

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An ACT *concerning the Inspection of Tobacco.*

[*Passed, December* 26, 1796.]

WHEREAS the act, intituled, "*An act for reducing into one, the several acts of Assembly, for the Inspection of Tobacco,*" hath in many parts been found defective, and it is necessary that the same should be amended:

Sec. I. *Be it enacted by the General Assembly*, That the courts of the several counties wherein public warehouses for the inspection of tobacco have been or may be established, shall annually, in the months of August or September, appoint one or more commissioners, of capacity and integrity, whose duty it shall be to provide that proper conveniences and repairs be provided and made at the several warehouses in their county; that proper scales and weights be provided, kept in repair, and examined and compared with the standard weights of the county once in six months at least; that they visit in the same space of time each warehouse at least once, and see that the tobacco therein is properly stored away and secured, and that the inspectors in all things diligently discharge their duty; and if they shall discover in any inspector any negligence or breach of his duty, they shall certify the same to the executive if it be of such a nature as to remove such inspector from office, and in all other cases, such neglect or breach of duty shall be certified to the court which appointed such inspector, whereupon they shall proceed against him according to law; *Provided*, That to the warehouses in the town of Petersburg, one person shall be appointed by the court of each of the counties of Prince-George, Dinwiddie, and Chesterfield; that to the warehouses in Richmond and Manchester, one person shall be appointed by the court of each of the counties of Henrico and Chesterfield, and to the warehouses in Fredericksburg and Falmouth, one person shall be appointed by the court of each of the counties of Spotsylvania and Stafford; and that the persons so appointed shall proceed jointly in performing the duties required by this act.

Sec. II. Each commissioner appointed as aforesaid, shall be allowed two dollars per day for every day he shall be employed in performing the duties required by this act, which services shall be ascertained by the court which appointed him, and by them certified to the auditor of public accounts, who shall issue a warrant on the treasury for the same; the auditor shall in like manner issue warrants for expences incurred by such commissioners or others acting under their directions in executing the services herein required, after due proof that the same have been performed.

Sec. III. And if any commissioner appointed by virtue of this act, shall fail to perform the duties thereby required, he shall on motion to the court which appointed him, be displaced, or fined by such court to the use of the commonwealth, in such sum as they shall think proper, recoverable in the same manner as fines against sheriffs failing to pay money received on executions.

Sec. IV. If any inspector shall after the first day of October next, pass any tobacco packed in hogsheads which exceed fifty-four inches in the length of the stave, or thirty-four inches at the head within the crow, making reasonable allowance for prizing, which allowance shall not exceed two inches above the gauge in the prizing head, he shall for every such offence be fined five dollars, to be recovered and appropriated as other fines against inspectors under the before recited act.

Sec. V. Every inspector who shall re-issue or pass away any tobacco note after the delivery of the tobacco for which the same was granted, shall suffer as a felon without the benefit of clergy.

Sec. VI. *And be it enacted*, That an additional allowance of twenty-five *per centum* be made to each and every inspector of tobacco throughout this commonwealth on the salaries heretofore allowed them by law, provided that the duties arising from the shipping of tobacco from the respective warehouses shall be adequate to discharge the said salaries.

Sec. VII. In lieu of the allowance now made by law to pickers of tobacco, they shall be and are hereby allowed to demand and receive for every hogshead of tobacco by them opened, thirty-three cents and one third of a cent; and every inspector shall be authorised to demand and receive in lieu of the allowance now made by law, seventeen cents for finding nails; which sums shall be paid and received in the same manner as the allowance already made for the same services.

Sec. VIII. If any person shall presume to manufacture tobacco without giving bond as required by law, he shall for every such offence forfeit and pay to the use of the commonwealth one hundred dollars, to be recovered before the court of the county or corporation within which such offender may reside, by action of debt or information, wherein the defendant shall be ruled to bail: *Provided*, That nothing herein contained shall be construed to extend to any person manufacturing tobacco of his own make. Every inspector of tobacco is hereby authorised and empowered to inspect any tobacco manufactured in the county wherein the warehouse at which he is appointed shall stand, and if in his opinion such tobacco be good, clean, and merchantable, he shall pass the same, stamp and mark the cask wherein it is packed or prized, and grant a certificate that the same hath been inspected according to law. He shall inspect no tobacco for which the manufacturer thereof shall not produce a manifest, but is hereby authorised and directed to seize such tobacco wherever it may be found, dispose thereof and pay the money arising therefrom into the public treasury.

Sec. IX. And whereas it is suggested that under the fifty-first section of the said recited act, the inspection of tobacco established at Deacon's Neck is discontinued; *Be it enacted*, That the said inspection shall be and is hereby revived and continued under the same regulations as inspections lawfully established.

Sec. X. So much of all acts or parts of acts as contravenes the operation of this act, shall be, and the same are hereby repealed. *Provided always*, That nothing in this act shall be construed to affect any rights, remedies, fines, forfeitures, penalties, or amercements, which have accrued, been vested, or incurred prior to the commencement of this act.

Sec. XI. *And provided also*, That the courts of the counties wherein any inspection of tobacco may be established, shall proceed to appoint the commissioners in this act mentioned at the court holden for their respective counties in the months of January or February next.

Sec. XII. This act shall be in force from the first day of January next.

From the (N. Y.) DIARY:

Our readers have already been presented with an accurate picture of the outline of our constitution, from the masterly pencil of Montesquieu. It becomes an object worthy of the most serious and momentuous consideration.—What are the best means of securing the permanence of the confederation of the United States?

The preservation of the union is essential to the happiness, perhaps to the liberty of America: its safety must be founded in public policy, and supported by political virtue.

The advantages arising from union have been amply and copiously discussed. Every valuable resource which our country possesses, in a great measure proceeds from the confederation.—Every prospect of strength, greatness, and prosperity, would vanish with the separation of the states.

For the preservation of American union it is indispensable,

1st. That geopraphical differences, and provincial distinctions, should be buried in oblivion. The citizen of Massachusetts should not consider himself superior to the inhabitant of Georgia, the state of New-York should not endeavour to monopolize the impost, or the duties on tonnage; nor the state of Pennsylvania to become the sovereign arbitress of the union. The people of the North should not be represented as superior to their Southern brethern; nor the latter insidiously accused of "hanging like a dead weight" upon the necks of the former.

2d. The government of the several states ought to be as similar as possible, and an uniformity of manners and customs assiduously cultivated. It is true that the Cantons of Switzerland materially vary in their local regulations; but their union is, in a great measure, owing to the public virtue of the people, and the happy simplicity of their manners. Germany, by nature one of the most compact territories in Europe, is divided almost into an infinitude of petty principalities, discordant in their interests, and variant in their governments. The consequence has been; that Germany is almost incapable of energetic and vigorous defence. If some of the Swiss Cantons had been under monarchical institutions, and others subjected to republican regulations, it is probable their union would have been long dissolved.

3d. National manners and institutions would have a happy tendency, and contribute much to the permanence of the union; yet every thing that would affect a consolidation is to be carefully avoided. Consolidation and Separance are the two evils which are to be avoided and deprecated; they are equally dangerous, and equally repugnant to Federalism.

"The Canaanites (says Montesquieu) were destroyed, by reason they were petty monarchies, that had no union nor confederacy for their common defence. And indeed, a confederacy is not agreeable to the nature of petty monarchies."

The Germans in this respect are pretty much like the Canaanites. The difference is, that the latter, in most instances, had no confederation, while the former have a very bad one.

NEW-LONDON, December 29.

On Saturday last, at 1 o'clock, P. M. a smart shock of an earthquake was felt in this city, accompanied with a report that broke upon the ear, like the explosion of a heavy cannon at a short distance. The sound and motion continued but a few moments. In the street, near the meeting house in Norwich two fissures, one or two inches wide, and several rods long, were made in the earth, within twenty rods of each other.

Friday and Saturday last were the coldest days we have experienced for many years. The mercury in Farenheit's Thermometor stood at sun rise, 8 degrees below 0.

NEW-YORK, January 4.

COMMUNICATION.

The Editor of the Minerva in his paper of Saturday, after lamenting the rapid progress of republicanism in Europe, and venting his rage against the French for not permitting the combined despots to give law to them, by way of contrast thus describes the situation of the United States.

"In these peaceful regions, the restless minds of men are not satisfied. Though not invaded by hostile armies, yet our citizens find or create sources of contention. The depression of a rival; the exaltation of a favourite; the ambition of some; the wants of others; all conspire to excite clamour and dissention; to rekindle the flame of domestic discord; and divide us into parties.—Government is assailed with the most intemperate spirit; moderation is denounced as pusillanimity; obedience to the laws is denominated servility; approbation of men's services is branded as adulation; religion is derided as an imposition; public worship and respect for the magistrate are proscribed; and by a prostitution of the sacred rights of election, *numbers* are opposed to *intelligence*, and men without talents or principle, by deceiving or corrupting men without independence, bear away the palm of public honors. Even the hoary headed statesman and patriot is not permitted to enjoy public esteem without alloy. Every impertinent upstart claims the right to execrate measures, of which he knows not the motives, and loads with calumny the very man who saved him and his country."

Who, after perusing this paragraph, would not suppose the United States a scene of anarchy and confusion, without government, laws, or any kind of union or harmony? would not one imagine, that the standard of rebellion was erected in every state, and that none but the profligate, dissolute, and abandoned were in office! that Atheism and Deism had usurped the place of religion, and that all was disobedience, immorality, intemperance, and discord? What a flattering picture has this gloomy Editor presented to his readers of the state of their country, at the return of a day when all is festivity and joy, when not only party, but personal resentment are for a time forgoten, and give way to mutua and friendly congratulations? What can this impertinent and discontented animal mean by asserting as he does, "that men without *talents* or *principle* bear away the palm of public honors?" Look at the first officers in the United States, whether executive, judicial, or legislative, and they are in general filled with men of probity and understanding; and it is a fact, notwithstanding the thousand lies which this conceived creature has told, that there is not a people on the globe more obedient to law, or more religious than the Americans—except the Western insurrection, which it is now tolerably well ascertained, was fomented by the government, nothing like opposition has ever discovered itself,—But such is the venom and rooted malice of Mr. Webster against certain individuals, that rather than not reach their feelings, he would, as he does in this New Year's piece, stigmatize the whole community. What a black and truly fiend like heart must that wretch possess who cannot wear a smile once in a year, when all around him are in good humour receiving the warm and sincere wishes of their fellow citizens for their happiness and prosperity. It is now near two years since I subscribed for the Minerva, and I can truly say, that during that period, I have scarcely ever read a paper that did not contain either an attack upon some respectable private character (generally the fabrications of Webster's own brain) or the more virulent abuse of the French nation, always connected with that of some of the most venerable patriots among us, or some mean and servile apology for the injustice of Great-Britain—or sarcasms on republics, blended with certain pitiful and paltry attempts to render monarchy palatable to the people of these states; in short, this paper may be pronounced without prejudice, to be not only the most impure vehicle of private abuse and calumny, but the most dangerous to the morals, religion, and republican principles of the people, of any edited within the United States.

LIST of LETTERS remaining

in the Post-Office at Petersburg, January 1, 1797

A.

CAPT. JAMES AFFLOCK. Thomas Anderson.

B

James Bromley. Mrs Burd. John Blackwell, Gurdon Backus. Joseph Badger. Capt. William Baykin. John Beale, Dinwiddie county. Graham Bell.

C.

Rev. John Brunskill, clerk of Amelia county, care of Roger Atkinson. William Cowan, Lunenburg, 2. Capt. William Coleman, Dinwiddie county. Joshua Coffee, Amelia county.

D.

Joseph Dupey, Lunenburg. Doctor Robert De Grappenreid, Lunenburg county. Thomas Dicky, 2.

E.

George Elliot, care of Robert Colquhoun. Thomas Edger.

F.

John Fenton, care of John Angus, 2.

G.

Erasmus Gill, 2. William Gunnell. John Gary, Prince George.

H.

Mr. Hosdras, 2. Hugh Hunter. Joseph Hooper.

J.

Zachariah Justice. Henry Israel. Jackson, Crallé & Jones, 2.

M.

Doctor Zachariah Martin, 3. James H. Montfort, Nottoway county. Ebenezer Macgowan, Nottoway county. George Macfarlane. James Maugeur. Alexander More. David Marlen, Prince George.

P.

James Patton and James Dykes. William S. Peachy, 2. William Parham, Suffex county. Gen. Robert Porterfield, Dinwiddie county. Dr. John Patterson, Nottoway county.

R.

Littleton Raines. John Reed. Theodrick Bland Ruffin. John Rodgers. Christian Rite.

S.

Robert Stewart, care of Baird and Weisiger. Peter Stokes, Lunenburg county. William Stevenson. John Stewart, jun.

T.

James Thaxton, Lunenburg county.

V.

John Verrell.

W.

Frederick Watkins, Nottoway county. Thomas Wells. Colin C. Wills, care of James Lynch. Hubbart Wyall, Dinwiddie county. Capt. Peter Woodlief, 4. Charles Williams, Suffex county, care of Joseph Harding. John Taylor Wormley, at the Rev. Mr. Robinson's, Chesterfield county.

J. GRAMMER.

January 3, 1797.

Blank Bills of Lading, for Sale at this Office.

From the Gazette of the United States.

Mr. FENNO,

As the queſtion concerning a land tax or a poll tax is becoming the ſubject of general converſation, perhaps the incloſed obſervations may not be thought improper by ſome of your readers. They are extracted from a letter that was publiſhed in 1789, in a neighbouring ſtate.

OF TAXES.

In all governments the relief of the poor ſhould be one of the chief objects of legiſlative attention.

Every citizen demands juſtice and protection from government, theſe ſhould not, they cannot be refuſed, but the poor man has other claims; his wants and his ſufferings muſt be in proportion to his poverty; humanity requires that his ſufferings be relieved or prevented. Though the rich are not to be defrauded for the ſake of the poor, the laws in every ſtate ſhould be ſo framed as to encourage and aſſiſt the poor in their uſual employments. The neceſſary burdens of civil government ſhould be ſo faſhioned as to preſs on their ſhoulders, in the moſt convenient and eaſy manner. The general payment of taxes is neceſſary to the ſupport of government, but the payment of taxes in many caſes is difficult, in ſome caſes impracticable by the poor man, without the the ſale of his property by a public officer. Every misfortune of this kind ſhould be prevented if poſſible. Perhaps the moſt effectual mode of preventing the poor man from being diſtreſſed in the payment of taxes, is by ſubſtituting an exciſe in the place of a direct tax on property. In France, England and Holland, the expences of government are chiefly raiſed by an exciſe. It has been frequently ſaid, that when a ſubject or or citizen is obliged to contribute a certain ſum for the uſe of government, there can be little difference by what name the tax is called, or how it is laid. No poſition can be more fallacious. A land tax or a poll tax are inevitable and poſitive taxes; they cannot be averted; the induſtrious cannot elude them; the unfortunate cannot eſcape them. Every citizen muſt take out his purſe and pay the amount, or his little furniture muſt be ſold. The exciſe is a negative tax, when it is laid on foreign goods no man is obliged to pay any part of it; when it is laid on luxuries no prudent man will pay much of it. It often happens that the moſt induſtrious citizens are diſtreſſed by domeſtic ſickneſs, or bad crops, in all ſuch caſes the exciſe operates as a relief to the unfortunate, for on ſuch years they buy no luxuries —Let us ſuppoſe a poll tax or a land tax of five dollars only; may it not happen that at the ſeaſon for collecting taxes, many of our fellow citizens will be found without five dollars in their poſſeſſion? It would be ſtrange if the pooreſt man, who is not a cripple, could not earn three times that ſum every year, beſides what is neceſſary for the ſupport of his family, but œconomy and foreſight are not characteriſtics of the poor; on the contrary, few men in the United States are poor, unleſs they are remarkably deficient in thoſe qualities.

Why then ſhould our laws ſuppoſe the citizen to have the quality that he certainly has not? Why ſhall they make it neceſſary for him to be treaſuring money for months, who never cared for to morrow? The moſt indolent, or the moſt careleſs citizen cannot poſſibly be incommoded by an exciſe; if he ſhould have no money during the year, nor any thing to ſell, he will buy nothing, and conſequently will pay no tax. When he is able to buy foreign commodities he will pay his tax. The exciſe is ſuppoſed chiefly to fall upon articles of foreign make, and prudence will direct that articles which are leaſt neceſſary, and ſuch as may ſooneſt come to perfection in our own country, ſhall bear the greateſt ſhare in the exciſe. The natural operation of ſuch taxes is favorable to the poor. No man pays the tax who is not able and willing to buy luxuries or foreign articles, therefore it is voluntary. The man who is diligent has leſs occaſion for ſuch articles, therefore it is a ſpur to induſtry. In a word, all taxes on property are burdens on the good citizen; they diſcourage induſtry. All taxes on conſumption are taxes on diſſipation and luxury, they puniſh idleneſs, and promote induſtry. Can we heſitate in making our choice?

The revenue of the Roman empire, in its proſperous days, aroſe chiefly from an exciſe and cuſtoms. That jealous and wiſe nation did not readily ſubmit to a land tax. There was a waſteful trade carried on between Rome and the Eaſt-Indies by way of the red ſea. By that trade much ſilver, near four millions of dollars, was annually exported from the Empire, and we have reaſon to conclude from the allegations of Pliny, that Eaſt India goods were forced to contribute, by an exciſe more than twenty millions per annum to the revenue. A land tax and poll tax were in early uſe through the Roman provinces, but they do not appear to have been generally impoſed on the Roman people before the reign of Galenius, the ſucceſſor of Dioclefian. From that period direct taxes became univerſal. What was the condition of the Roman people under an adminiſtration of cuſtoms, exiſe and other indirect taxes, when compared with the times in which the land tax and poll tax became general? It was an age of gold, compared to that of iron. Humanity is ſhocked by the tales of woe that are told concerning the poor of that age. Parents are ſaid to have ſold their children and to have ſold themſelves into ſlavery, in order to ſhun the burden of taxes.

I have ſaid that an exciſe is more favorable to the poor than a land or poll tax; I will venture an additional ſentiment. There never was any government in which an exciſe could be of ſo much uſe as in the United States of America. In all other countries taxes of every ſort are a ſpecies of grievance. In the United States an exciſe on foreign goods would not be a grievance; like wholeſome food it would give us ſtrength. It would help to cloſe that waſteful drain by which our honor and our wealth are conſumed. What though we did not owe a florin to any foreign nation; though we had no domeſtic debt, and though the expences of government could be ſupported for many years without taxes, ſtill it may be queſtioned whether an exciſe on foreign articles would not be prudent. It is the beſt expedient by which we can promote domeſtic manufactures, and the condition in which we now live—our general dependence on foreign countries for arms and cloathing is diſhonorable—it is dangerous.

NEW-YORK, Jan. 4.

Mr Iſnardi, conſul at Cadiz, arrived in the ſhip William Henry, which is caſt away on Long Iſland, it is ſaid, informs, that the French order to take Americans, is generally executed in that quarter, and that a number of American veſſels, bound to and from Gibraltar, had been carried in and ordered to be condemned. Thus works the Britiſh treaty.

The following important extract of a letter from a reſpectable mercantile houſe in Norwich, (Connecticut) dated on Sunday laſt, January 1, was politely handed us laſt evening for inſertion:

"*The ſhip Hope arrived the day before yeſterday at New London, in 36 days from Liverpool. Particulars by this veſſel I have not yet learned; the moſt important article is, the return of Lord Malmeſbury from Paris, as he went and that all parties are preparing to proſecute the war with the utmoſt vigour.*"

January 6.

Our Hamburgh paper of Nov. 7, has Paris articles to 16th Oct. ſix days later than any received. They relate chiefly to a decree of the Council of Five Hundred, forbidding the importation or ſale of Engliſh goods, under the ſevereſt penalties. At this date, therefore, no proſpect of adjuſtment between thoſe two powers could have been in view.

Mr Iſnardi the American conſul is arrived in town, from Cadiz. We have it from good authority that he ſtates, that two American veſſels bound from that port to Gibraltar, had been taken by French cruizers, carried back to Cadiz, and condemned, as American property.

The ſhip Hope is on the Coffee-houſe books as arrived at New-London in 36 days from London. Letters by her are alſo ſaid to be in town, adviſing that ſhe brought intelligence of the Britiſh miniſter Lord Malmeſbury, having returned from Paris, without having effected any of the objects of his miſſion. We believe it; and our other foreign accounts, though not ſo late, juſtify, we think, the concluſion. No newſpapers were received by the mail from New-London.

SAVANNAH, Dec. 27.

Yeſterday arrived the ſchooner Larker, Capt. Lightburn, in 5 days from New Providence—we learn by ſaid veſſel, that an armed ſchooner had arrived there from Bermuda, commiſſioned to cruiſe againſt the Spaniards, and had brought with her a number of blank commiſſions, in conſequence of which ſeveral privateers were immediately fitted out, and in the courſe of a few days, brought in a number of valuable prizes, conſiſting of 2 ſhips, 1 brig, 3 ſchooners and a ſloop, all of which had ſpecie on board to a large amount—the brig had 10,000 dollars. Two days previous to Capt. Lightburn's departure, a brig had arrived from London, in 42 days, and brought intelligence of the proſpect of a ſpeedy and general peace, owing to which moſt of the privateers were laid up, and the abovementioned ſpecie depoſited in the cuſtom houſe.

Yeſterday morning between the hours of 1 and 2, a fire broke out in the houſe occupied by Mr. James M'Intoſh and Capt E. Swarbreck.—Fortunately, moſt of each family were in the lower ſtory, by which means they had juſt time to make their eſcape into the ſtreet, with no other cloathing than what they had lain in. Mr. and Mrs. M'Intoſh, their child and Miſs Read, were ſleeping in the upper ſtory, and when at length, they were awakened by the noiſe below, they could ſee no proſpect of eſcape—ſuch volumes of ſmoke had filled the houſe, that they could not find the ſtair caſe, add to this, they believed the lower part of the houſe in flames.—Thus ſituated, they muſt have periſhed, but for the exertions of Mr. R. Fiſher, who ran up ſtairs, and at the riſk of his own life, reſcued them from the devouring flames. Mr. M'Intoſh found means to eſcape by jumping from an upper window. Upon examination, it appeared that the houſe muſt have been ſet on fire by ſome wicked incendiary, as the fire originated under the lower floor, in two diſtinct places. This fire, though it was prevented extending any further than the one houſe, in the occupation of the above gentlemen, was to them a moſt dreadful event, as they did not ſave a ſingle article from the flames.

On the evening preceding, between 9 and 10 o'clock, a moſt daring attempt was made to ſet fire to a ſtore under the Bluff, occupied by Mr. E. Baldwin—a bowl of a pipe containing fire, wrapped in a parcel of oakum and other combuſtibles, was placed near the ſtore door. Fortunately it was early diſcovered and removed.

In the afternoon of yeſterday, the city was again alarmed by fire, which was diſcovered under the neceſſary, belonging to the houſe occupied by Dr. J. Love. The fire was found in a parcel of ſtraw, tucked under the ſill, and from every circumſtance, it appears deſignedly ſet on fire.

The following prices of the undermentioned articles, is extracted from a letter, received by Capt. Lightburn, from New-Providence, dated the 14th of December, to a reſpectable mercantile houſe in this city.

Rice 3 1 2 dollars—Flour 12 to 13—Corn 1 dollar and 50 cents, and in great demand, arrivals of this article daily expected. Jamaica rum 2 dollars and 50 cents—Sugar and coffee none at market—Dollars all ſhipped to St. Domingo, in exchange for government bills, and ſeizing Spaniards to obtain more.

December 30.

We have had an uncommon and continued ſpell of very cold, but generally clear weather, ſince the 26th of November the the night of the great fire in this city. The The Mercury in Ferenheit's thermometer, was at 13, about ſunriſing the 23d and 24th of this month—eggs, milk and liquids (which had no ſpirits) in ſmall quantities, were frozen up entirely, and broke the ſhells, bottles with other glaſs and crockery, which contained them.

An old inhabitant of this ſtate, informs us, that at the firſt ſettlement of it, a few winters were leſs ſevere than this, and often much colder, that the Altamaha river, near a degree ſouth of this, and where our informant reſided, has often been frozen ſixty or ſeventy yards from its ſhores on each ſide, but the greateſt part always fell with the tides.

CHARLESTON, December 30.

There is a letter in town from Knoxville, which informs that two votes of the electors of Tenneſſee were given for Mr. Jefferſon, and one for Mr. Adams.

On Monday laſt lieutenant Robiſon arrived at Fort Johnſon, in the ſloop Romeo, captain Baker, from New-York, with a detachment of the corps of artillery and engineers, for captain Michael Kalteiſen's company, which by this reinforcement, is very nearly compleat, and will render that poſt of importance to this ſtate, and great ſecurity to the harbour.

RICHMOND, Jan. 13.

Yeſterday forenoon a fire broke out in this city, in the houſe occupied by Daniel Timmings, Tallow-Chandler, on the eaſt ſide of the bridge, oppoſite Samuel Ege's ſtone houſe; it immediately communicated to the adjoining two ſtory houſe, both of which were conſumed—but by the great exertions of the citizens in cutting away the houſe of David Loggan, ſhoemaker, on the weſt, with the aſſiſtance of the engine, the fire was got under without further injury. Too much credit cannot be given to every deſcription of our citizens, who inſtantly repaired from different parts of the city to the ſcene, and rendered every ſervice in their power.

PETERSBURG, *Jan.* 17.

Died at Raleigh, North-Carolina, on Friday the 23d December, the Hon. JOHN LEIGH, late ſpeaker of the Houſe of Commons of that ſtate.

By late intelligence from Europe, via New York, we learn, that the French General Moreau had recovered from his late critical ſituation, and was prepared to meet the enemy; and that in his retrograde movements he had taken from the enemy 18 pieces of cannon, a pair of colours, and nearly 7000 priſoners, amongſt which there are 80 officers—That General Buonaparte had gained ſome partial ſucceſſes in the ſiege of Mantua; but nothing deciſive had occurred; reinforcements were ſaid to be on their way for the relief of General Wurmſer.

We are at preſent only able to extract the following intereſting particulars:

PARIS, October 31.

Much is ſaid on the immenſe preparations making for an invaſion of England; we muſt ſaid Cato, deſtroy Carthage; we ſhall never conquer the Romans but in Rome, ſaid Hannibal and Mithridates. Marſhal Saxe often repeated, that the Engliſh would never be conquered but in London; we think, that if the Britiſh government refuſes to accept juſt conditions of peace, and if they perſiſt in arming Europe againſt the Republic, we muſt carry the war to the banks of the Thames, and force the government to accept the olive branch. We do not diſſemble the multiplied dangers of ſuch an enterprize; ſucceſs is doubtful; but perhaps, it is neceſſary to hazard it, for the repoſe of Europe and the glory of the French Republic.

November 9.

A private letter from Genoa announces, that the inhabitants of Baſtia, inſtructed of the departure of the Engliſh, and that they were making oppoſitions to blow up the fort by two mines, took up arms against them, and detained the governor as a priſoner.

The Dey of Algiers is exerting himſelf in the moſt ſpirited manner to maintain the independence of his ports! The Engliſh having infringed that independence, and taken a Spaniſh frigate there, the Algerines having reclaimed it, and are preparing their whole maritime force!

November 6.

Citizens Directors,

I haſten to communicate to the Executive Directory the reception of letters from Breſt of the 3d inſt. (Nov.) brought by an extraordinary Courier, which announce that a general revolution has juſt taken place in Ireland. This intereſting news came by two ſhips brought into the road the ſame evening by our privateers, and which lately ſailed from Liverpool. Their captains ſtate, that the Iriſh after taking poſſeſſion of 30,000 ſtand of arms in Dublin, attacked and defeated 10,000 Engliſh troops—that the Militia joined the Inſurgents, and that the whole country is in a ſtate of inſurrection.

The arreſts, and ſome other arbitrary proceedings of which the Engliſh Miniſter is accuſed, ſeemed to have provoked this commotion.

Health and Reſpect, TRUGUET.

General Bournonville to the Executive Directory.

Manheim, 8 Brumaire.

I had the honor to give you an account yeſterday of the attack of the army, made by the enemy in the night between the 29th and the 30th Vendemaire, upon the head of the bridge and the ſtation of Neuwied; he has projected nothing leſs than to make the garriſon priſoners of war, and to raiſe the works, and finally cut off the communication of the left wing with the right of the army. This affair coſt the enemy more than 4000 men.

BOURNONVILLE.

LONDON, November 17.

There has been a report in circulation, that Miniſters have received accounts from Belfaſt, that a veſſel bearing American colours had ſtood into that harbour; but ſeeing a king's ſhip lying at anchor, had endeavoured to ſheer off, but was taken, and it was found that ſhe had 15 000 ſtand of arms on board. The Captain had time to burn his papers, and he would neither ſay from whence he came nor whither he was bound. We repeat the ſtory exactly according to rumour, but on the face of it, it is a moſt improbable tale. If there was any deſign, either on the part of the enemy, or the diſaffected perſons in the country (if there are any really diſaffected) to ſmuggle fire arms into that kingdom, they would hardly have ſent a veſſel into a port ſo public as Belfaſt. The Iriſh papers ſay nothing on ſuch an event.

Yeſterday an account was received at Dover, ſtating, that intelligence had been communicated by the Telegraph to Liſle, a few hours before the ſailing of a veſſel from Calais arrived there—that an engagement had taken place between the Auſtrian General Alvinzy, and the French General Maſſena, on the 20th ult. near Trieſte, in which the former were defeated; the French having made about 3000 Croats and a number of officers priſoners. The cannon and all the baggage of the Auſtrians alſo fell into their hands.

TOWN OF PETERSBURG:

January Huſtings Court, 1797.

Purſuant to the Regulations made for fixing the Aſſize of Bread in this Town, the Court aſcertain and fix the Price of Flour this date, at Nine Dollars per Barrel—Therefore the Loaf of Bread for 3½. ſhould weigh 14 ounces.

A copy,

J. GRAMMER, C. T. P.

†4† Thoſe perſons who were entruſted with Subſcription Papers for publiſhing a Collection of Poems by the late Col. Robert Munford, are requeſted to lodge them and the Subſcription Money received, with William Prentis, Printer, Peterſburg, in whoſe hands the Poems are left for publication.

WILLIAM MUNFORD.

December 23, 1796.

RICHMOND, January 14, 1797.

The public is informed,

that the ſale of my Negroes, advertiſed to take place at Cumberland Court-houſe on Tueſday the 31ſt of this month, will not take place.

EDWIN BURWELL.

Sale for Tobacco or Caſh.

PURSUANT to a decree of the High Court of Chancery, made the 14th day of May, 1796, will be expoſed to public ſale, by auction, on the premiſes, on Tueſday the 7th. day of February next, A TRACT of LAND, in Suſſex county, mortgaged by Robert Tucker, now deceaſed, to Sir Peyton Skipwith, containing 150 acres, more or leſs, being part of the Traſt on which the ſaid Tucker formerly lived, and bounded by the lands of Raines, Wilkinſon, Parham and Heath.

The ſale will be for ready money, or inſpected crop tobacco paſſed at Peterſburg, Blandford, or any of the warehouſes upon James river above the mouth of Appomattox, at caſh value—to ſatisfy a debt due to the ſaid Skipwith.

Alſo SEVEN SLAVES, on the ſame terms.

STEPHEN TEMPLE,
WILLIAM CALL,
DUNCAN ROSE,
Commiſſioners.

January 14, 1797. 6

The Public are respectfully informed,

THE PETERSBURG THEATRE

Will open on Wednesday, Jan. 18, 1797,

With the COMEDY of the

DRAMATIST;

And the Farce of the

Irishman in London.

Tickets to be had at Mr. Armistead's Tavern—at the Printing Office—and at the Office of the Theatre.

BOXES 6s. PIT 4s. 6d.

The Doors of the Theatre to be opened at Five o'Clock, and the Performance to begin precisely at Six.

☞ The Subscribers are respectfully informed, their tickets will be delivered at the Printing Office, between the Hours of Ten and Three o'Clock on the Days of Performance.

Vivat Respublica.

Public Vendue.

THIS DAY, the 17th inst.

SIX hogsheads New-England RUM, } On 30
2 hogsheads West India, do. } days.
6 pipes FRENCH BRANDY,
2 pipes TENERIFFE WINE, } On 60
30 pieces German, } OSNABURGS, } days.
10 pieces British, }
6 barrels men's and women's coarse SHOES,
1000 lbs SOLE LEATHER,
8 bags PEPPER,
4 boxes CHOCOLATE,
10 barrels SUGAR,
4 barrels COFFEE,
10 quarter casks Sherry, } WINE,
6 quarter casks Port, }
10 bags ALLSPICE,
A great variety of DRY-GOODS,
Raisins, Grapes, Figs, Olives, Capers, Oranges, and Lemons.
8 bales assorted Rose BLANKETS, on 3 months.

CASH.

WILLIAM HAXALL, V. M.

January 12, 1797.

THOSE persons who are indebted to the estate of JEREMIAH OVERBY, deceased, on bond, are requested to come forward and discharge them—the bonds are lodged in the hands of Mr. George Hay, who will receive payment. If they are not paid between this and March Dinwiddie court, suits will be brought on them, returnable to that court.

ARMISTEAD DAVES, Adm'r.

January 14, 1797. (3)

Prince George, Jan. 12, 1797.

THE subscriber hereby forewarns all persons from taking an assignment of a bond executed by him to Archibald Robertson, Administrator of Joshua Poythress, deceased, as he considers the same as already discharged.

☞ THEODORICK MORISON.

BAR-IRON,

By the Ton,

For Sale by

ROBERT MOORE.

Petersburg, January 17, 1797.

R. SHAW,

of the THEATRE,

BEGS leave to inform the Ladies and Gentlemen of Petersburg and its vicinity, that he intends giving LESSONS on SINGING, HARPSICHORD, GERMAN FLUTE, &c.

He hath for sale, a quantity of VOCAL and INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC, of the latest publications in Europe and America—also GERMAN FLUTES, of the best manufactory, Violin Strings, Harpsichord and Piano Forte Wire of all sorts, &c.

The above articles will be sold as cheap as at any store on the continent. Enquire at the house, next the Theatre, on Bollingbrook street.

N B. Books of Instructions for the Harpsichord, Violin and German Flute—Harpsichords and Piano Fortes tuned and repaired.

Petersburg, January 12, 1797. 4*

LIST of LETTERS,

Remaining in the POST OFFICE at GHOLSON's the 1st of January, 1797, which will be forwarded to the General Post-Office, if not taken out by the 1st of April.

JOHN Clarkson. Arad Welton. Martha Sadler. William Ruffin, 2 Thomas Tomsen. Williams Jackson, Nottoway county. William Vaughan, 4.

JOHN GHOLSON, P. M.

TO BE SOLD,

To the highest bidder, for ready money, on Wednesday the 25th instant, at Mr. Fletcher's Tavern, in Cabin Point,

SEVEN likely Negroes, belonging to the estate of William Cocke, dec. consisting of three valuable Men (one of which is an excellent Gardner) one Woman, and three Girls nearly grown.

PETER JEMM,
Surviving Administrator.

January 3, 1797. 3

January 7, 1797.

ON Thursday the 5th instant, several persons pursued four runaways, and found in their possession the following articles, viz. a variety of petticoats, several women's jackets, shifts, aprons, handkerchiefs, caps, habits, and a pair of pockets marked D.T—there are also several men's waistcoats, a pair of breeches, two children's frocks, one patched counterpain, two cloaks, several yards durants, some flannel, and several other small things too tedious to mention. The claimants will please apply to the subscriber, on Cocke's road, near Butterwood Springs.

☞ THOMAS COLLIER.

I wish to RENT,

The HOUSES and LOTS,

I now occupy—allowance will be made for repairs.

S. DAVIES.

January 8, 1797.

NOTICE.

THOSE who may be indebted to the late concern of DINWIDDIE, CRAWFORD, & Company, for dealings with David Russell, at their store in Blandford; Robert Turnbull, at their store in Dinwiddie; Thomas Crawford, at their store in Brunswick; William Turnbull, at their store in Mecklenburg; William Cole, at their store in Warren county, North Carolina; or with Robert Burton or William Duncan, at their store at Hall's, in Charlotte county, under the firm of Charles Duncan, & Company—are hereby notified, that the subscribers appointed by the Honorable the High Court of Chancery, to collect and receive all the debts due to the said Company, and to take into their possession all the Books, Bonds, Notes, and other Papers, to the said Company belonging:—And the subscribers being exclusively authorised to collect the said debts, the respective debtors are required to make immediate payment to us, or one of us; and inhibited from making any payment on account of such debts to the said Robert Turnbull, as well in cases where the said Robert hath taken Bonds or Notes, Bills of Sale, or Mortgages, payable to himself individually, or unto himself and Charles Duncan jointly, for money or tobacco originally due to the said Company, as in those cases where the Bonds or Notes &c. are made payable to Dinwiddie, Crawford, & Company, or Charles Duncan, & Company—and the several Lawyers, Sheriffs and Collectors, who may be possessed of any Money, Bonds, Notes, or other specialties, belonging to the said Company (although in the name of said Robert Turnbull) are requested to communicate the same to us, and to consider themselves accountable to us only for such papers, and their collections thereon.

CHARLES DUNCAN, a Partner of,
And COLLIN CAMPBELL, Attorney for,
DINWIDDIE, CRAWFORD, & Co.

January 12, 1797. (ep tf)

NOTICE.

THOSE indebted to DUNCAN & TURNBULL, for dealings at their late store in PETERSBURG, under the management of William Cole, will please take notice, that the subscribers are appointed by the Honorable the High Court of Chancery, to collect and receive all the debts due to the said concern, and to take into their possession all the Books, Bonds, Notes, and all other Specialties, belonging to the said Company:—And the subscribers being exclusively authorised to collect the said debts, the respective debtors are required to make immediate payment to us, or one of us; and inhibited from making any payment hereafter on account of such debts, to the said William Cole, or to Robert Turnbull:—And the several Lawyers, Sheriffs, or other Collectors, who may be possessed of any papers belonging to the said concern of Duncan & Turnbull, are requested to communicate the same to us, and to consider themselves accountable to us only for such papers and collections thereon.

CHARLES DUNCAN, a Partner,
And COLLIN CAMPBELL, Attorney for,
JAMES KING, sen. another Partner.

January 12, 1797. (ep tf.)

TO BE RENTED,

For one, two or three years, and possession given immediately,

THE plantation on Appomattox river, in Chesterfield county, formerly the property of ROBERT DONALD, deceased—There is on this plantation a large and commodious dwelling house, with all the necessary out houses, fit for the reception of a genteel family; an excellent apple orchard sufficient to produce three thousand gallons of cyder, a good garden, and a crop of wheat is sown. A further description is thought unnecessary, as it is presumed that any person inclined to rent will first view the premises. The terms will be made known on application to the subscriber at Otterdale.

ANN DONALD.

January 2, 1797. 6

THE death of Mr. WEISIGER makes it indispensably requisite, that the business carried on under the late firm of Baird and Weisiger, and John Baird jun and Co. should be closed; those who are indebted, are once more requested to come forward and settle, or pay off their respective balances, as no longer indulgence will be given—John Baird, jun. and William Baird, have the books and papers, and will settle and receive payments—Those who are indebted to me in my private capacity, will please take notice, that as their debts have been long due, unless they now come forward and make payment, or renew their bonds, no longer indulgence will be given them.

I will rent my place in the lower end of Blandford, called Boyd's tenement; there is a commodious dwelling-house which commands a beautiful view of the river and street, with all necessary out houses, and an excellent meadow; containing in all about 16 acres—entry will be given at Christmas.

I will also rent the store in Blandford lately occupied by Baird and Weisiger, it is large, convenient, and well adapted for carrying on business, and has good lumber houses; possession may be had immediately.

I will dispose of an elegant new chariot, built under my own eye—the springs, axle-trees and iron work, with handsome harness for four horses, imported from Philadelphia. Twelve months credit will be given on bond and security.

JOHN BAIRD.

Prince George, Greencroft, Nov. 28, 1796.

FIVE DOLLARS REWARD.

STOP THIEF!

STOLEN out of my stable, in the course of last night, a BLACK GELDING, four years old, about fourteen hands high, just docked and trimmed, both mane and forelocks, with one hind foot white; he trots, paces and canters well, and carries his head remarkably low. They stole also, a large new saddle, and an elegant plated bit bridle. The saddle had silver bosses, with D. or A. D. thereon. I will give the above reward upon delivery of the horse, saddle and bridle, with the addition of 15 dollars for securing the thief.

Richmond, November 22. AUG. DAVIS.

Ten Dollars Reward.

RANAWAY from the subscriber, when he was on to the northward in August last,

MURRAY,

a dark Mulatto man, from 30 to 40 years old, about 5 feet 8 or 9 inches high; the above reward will be given on his commitment to jail, or on delivery to me.

JAMES MARSH.

Petersburg, January 3, 1797.

FOR SALE,

On a reasonable Credit,

A TRACT of Land containing 1600 acres, in Surry county, near the Court-house, whereon I lately lived; the soil is favourable for the cultivation of corn and small grain, and a considerable part will produce good tobacco naturally; a large stream runs through the land, on which there is not only an abundance of rich low land proper for meadow, with a trifling expence of ditching, but has on it a very advantageous site for a Mill, within three miles of a public landing on James river; a short dam may be made to raise fifteen feet of water, or more if required. The Land is better stock'd with good pine, white oak, ash and poplar, than most tracts in the lower country, having been but little pillaged, except for the houses now on the Land—they have all been built within ten years, and consist of a well finished and convenient two story dwelling-house, and every other necessary outhouse—there is also valuable young orchards, both of apple and peach. Should any person desirous of purchasing wish to view the Land and advantages above mentioned, they will be shewn by application to me in Isle of Wight county.

RICHARD COCKE.

Shoal-Bay, Dec. 31, 1796. 6

FOR SALE,

And to be entered on at Christmas, 1797,

THAT beautiful and healthful Farm, whereon I now live, in Brunswick county. It is no exaggeration to say, that this spot has as many advantages as any on Meherrin river.—It contains about 450 acres, is bounded by the river about 1¾ miles; has a river mill-seat equal if not superior to any on the river, on the north side, by a never failing stream, on which there is a mill lately built, running two pair of stones, the dam built in the most substantial manner, the running gears now out of repair—the soil rich and fertile for all manner of productions; the situation beautiful; excellent spring at the door; convenient to court-house, churches, &c. the neighbourhood remarkable for hospitality, sociality, and general respectability; the situation is calculated for merchandize, manufacturing mills, distilleries, &c.

Also for sale, two other small Farms, adjacent to the above, possessing many advantages—they may be bought separately or together—with a stock of fine cattle, six fine mules of three years old next spring, chiefly broke to work, and one older. Also several high bred elegant brood mares, all young.

For terms apply to my son Poll Claiborne, at my house, and whatsoever bargain he shall make, conformable to my instructions in the premises, I will fulfill on my return home.

THOMAS CLAIBORNE.

Philadelphia, Dec. 21, 1796.

N. B. I have also for sale, two valuable Tracts, near Cape Fear, in North Carolina. Apply to the same source for terms

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John Ellis,

Has received by different arrivals from Europe, and will be offered for sale, by wholesale and retail, on Monday next, in the house formerly occupied by HUGH HUNTER, deceased, and immediately opposite Halliday and Stoke's store, in Old-street,

AN EXTENSIVE ASSORTMENT OF

WINTER GOODS,

CONSISTING of almost every article in the Dry Good line, either useful or ornamental; having selected his goods from the different manufactories, he is enabled to dispose of them on such terms, as must render them an object to those, who conceive it their interest to purchase with cash.

N B. Country merchants will be supplied on the most reasonable terms.

Petersburg, Oct. 20, 1796. (tf)

Edward Jeffers,

HAVING declined business in the Town of Petersburg, has removed his office to his house situated on the lower end of Bollingbrook street, a few doors below the Vendue Office. He earnestly wishes to adjust all accounts, as Executor of John Jeffers, deceased, and as surviving partner of John and Edward Jeffers. Intending to leave the state about six months hence, he gives this public notice; to those who have any just claims against said firm, &c. to apply for immediate payment, otherwise this notice shall be pled in bar—and those persons who cannot make it convenient to discharge their accounts immediately, are requested to give their bonds. Every possible indulgence will be given to those who amicably adjust their accounts.

Petersburg, October 31, 1796.

NOTICE.

THOSE who may be indebted to the late concern of HUNTER & SPAIN, for dealings at their Store in Brunswick, and to SPAIN, HUNTER, & Co. for dealings at their Store in St. Tammany, are earnestly requested to be speedy in making payment to the subscriber, who is in possession of the Books, Bonds, Notes, and Accounts—as the whole of the out-standing debts will indiscriminately be lodged in an Attorney's hands to bring suit thereon by the first day of March next; the nature of the above Companies business not admitting of farther indulgence.

JAMES CREIGHTON.

Brunswick county, Nov. 10, 1796. tf

Blank Bonds for sale at this Office.

The Co-partnership of

WILLIAM CLARK, & Co.

Is this day dissolved, by mutual consent.

IT is earnestly requested that all those indebted to said concern, may immediately come forward and pay off their accounts to HUGH GORDON or FRANCIS H. IRBY, who are fully empowered to receive the same.

WILLIAM CLARK.
HUGH GORDON.

Petersburg, December 31, 1796.

ALSO it is requested, that those who are still owing balances for transactions previous to the 1st. September 1791, *in my own name*, may pay them to Mr. FRANCIS H IRBY to whom I have given full power to receive and grant discharges for the same, otherwise suits will be indiscriminately brought.

WILLIAM CLARK.

Petersburg, December 31, 1796.

Smith & Hill,

BEG leave to inform their friends and the public, that they have Just Received and now for opening,

A VERY EXTENSIVE ASSORTMENT OF

GOODS,

comprehending almost every useful and fashionable article, which they are determined to sell on the most reasonable terms, for ready payment.

Petersburg, October 28, 1796. (tf.)

Petersburg, Nov. 1, 1796.

THE subscriber informs his friends and the public, that his business will be carried on in future under the firm of

John and William Bell.

He therefore requests, that all those who are indebted to him will come forward to adjust and settle their respective accounts, as this new arrangement will put it entirely out of his power to grant any longer indulgence to those who owe him balances above six months.

JOHN BELL.

John & William Bell,

HAVE just received an additional supply of the following

Fancy Goods and Groceries,

from the Northward Markets—Also a large and general assortment of Hardware, Woollens, and other seasonable Goods, from Liverpool—Which they offer for sale, on the usual terms, at their store in Bollingbrook street.

Superfine Cloths, Cassimeres and Swandowns.
Fancy Plumes, Feathers, Beads, Necklaces, and Ear-bobs.
Playing Cards, Black Books, Dutch Quills, and other Stationary.
Sheetings, Cambricks, Long Lawns, and Muslins.
Ribbons, Lace and Edgings, and a neat assortment of Sattins, Lustrings, and Persians.
Table and Tea China, in setts.
Glass and Queens ware assorted.
Fresh Teas.
Madeira, Sherry, Lisbon, and Teneriffe Wines—(the Madeira warranted 4 years old.
Bar Iron, Castings, Salt.
Coffee, Loaf and Brown Sugar.
Rum, French and Apple Brandies.
Cheese, Chocolate,
Black and Cayenne Pepper, and other Spices, &c. &c. &c.

Petersburg, Nov. 1, 1796. tf

December 27, 1796.

STRAYED or Stolen from Mr. John Osborne's stable, in Blandford, the 24th instant,

A Bay Mare,

Four years old, four feet seven or eight inches high, shod before, with a short tail, one hind foot white, small ears, trots and gallops. Whoever delivers the said Mare to me in Chesterfield county, shall be rewarded agreeable to their trouble.

tf ARTHER TRAYLOR, jun.

Mecklenburg County,

October, Quarterly Court, 1796.

John Marshall, Plaintiff.

Against

Richard Baskervill, Henry Moody, and Francis Moody, which said Henry and Francis are sons of Henry Moody, deceased, Charles Campbell and Phebe his wife, Abraham Beufort and Mary his wife, which said Phebe Campbell and Mary Beufort are daughters of the said Henry Moody, deceased, Elizabeth Beufort Moody and P. Moody infants, and daughters of William Moody, deceased, who was also son of Henry Moody deceased. Defendants.

IN CHANCERY.

THE defendants Charles Campbell and Phebe his wife—Abraham Beufort, and Mary his wife, —Elizabeth Beufort Moody,—and P Moody,—not having entered their appearance, and given security according to the act of Assembly, and the rules of this court, and it appearing to the satisfaction of the court, that they are not inhabitants of this commonwealth: On the motion of the plaintiff by his counsel—It is ordered, that the said defendants do appear here on the second Monday in February next, and answer the bill of the plaintiff; and that a copy of this order be forthwith inserted in some news paper in Richmond or Petersburg, for two months successively, and posted at the front door of the court-house of this county.

A Copy,

Teste WILLIAM BASKERVILLE, C. Cur.

JUST PUBLISHED,

And now selling at the Office of the Printer hereof,

The *Virginia & North-Carolina*

ALMANACK,

For the year 1797.

From the CENTINEL.

To the citizens at large, and thoſe particularly who are concerned in the navigation and carrying trade of the United States.

No. 1.

IT is now clearly aſcertained, that the events of a peace, will prove moſt unfortunate, to the ſhip owners of the United States, as veſſels are that ſpecies of property which at that period, muſt undergo a greater change, in their price and value, than any other: The ſudden loſs of property, to any conſiderable number of perſons, is viewed a diſagreeable and afflicting circumſtance in every nation; and is uſual for governments, upon ſuch occaſions, either to recompence, or by their policy, to prevent injuries of this ſort. It cannot be improper then, to mention a probable antidote to the evil; An antidote, which will be competent to the object, and which it is not only the conſtitutional right of owners of veſſels to propoſe, but the peculiar duty of government to grant: The antidote here meant to be ſuggeſted, is a navigation act for a limited time, reſtricting, with ſimilar exceptions, to that of *Great Britain*, the tranſportation of the produce of the United States, in American built ſhips or veſſels, owned by the citizens of the United States. If a meaſure of this kind ſhould be propoſed, and be carried into effect, an immenſe property which will be otherwiſe loſt, will be ſaved to the United States, and the ruin of a great number of ſhip holders, and of thoſe, who depend on them for employ, may be probably prevented.

Perhaps ſome may think the foregoing to be a bold propoſition; but it is probable, a more beneficial one, cannot readily be ſuggeſted: Good policy requires that an approaching evil, ſhould be anticipated by a ſeaſonable remedy; which it is both theſe wiſdom and duty of government to afford. Engliſhmen and their fetters, may carp at the propoſition; but it need no great penetration, to diſcern its utility and policy: It is to be hoped then that our citizens will not want firmneſs, nor will be readily diverted from a meaſure of ſuch eminent importance! In ſuch caſe it will be neceſſary to immediately bring forward, a Petition to Congreſs, requeſting a navigation act for a limited time, of the kind herein propoſed. Perhaps it may be objected, that the treaty with England, will be affected by the meaſure; but a ſuggeſtion of this ſort, would certainly be unfounded, as will appear by the 15th article of the treaty, which licences the right of prohibiting the exportation, or importation of articles to either party, provided the prohibition ſhall equally extend to every other nation. The words of the treaty, obvious to the meaneſt underſtanding, are as follows:

Nor ſhall any prohibition be impoſed on the exportation or importation of any articles, to or from the territories of the two parties reſpectively, which ſhall not equally extend to all other nations.—The right then making a navigation act ſimilar to that of Great Britain is not interdicted by the treaty, but exiſts with the legiſlature of the United States in its fulleſt extent, under the powers of Congreſs generally, and under that ſpecially of regulating commerce.

Without immediately entering into the great queſtion, how far it is the policy of this country to exclude foreigners from participating in the carrying trade, for the ſake of becoming a great maritime power; yet when the government, by adopting a neutrality which, added to the war in Europe, has created a diſpoſition in the citizens to convert their capitals from their ordinary objects, to thoſe of navigation, it becomes the government, by a concurrent policy, and rendered neceſſary by the conſequences of its neutrality, to protect ſuch property from injury, if not ruin, through the competition or interference of foreign veſſels, eſpecially when it is known that we have now more ſhips and veſſels than are neceſſary to tranſport to foreign markets, all the exportable produce of the United States.

As an American Navigation Act for a limited time, reſpects the French nation, there can be no juſt ground of umbrage, eſpecially when it is conſidered, from the deranged ſtate of her commerce, that for ſome years after a peace, her colinies will probably yield more produce, than if he will have veſſels to tranſport it.

It is with the Engliſh government alone, that this meaſure will produce any emotion or objection: Nor ought it to do ſo with them, when it ſhall be known to be a defenſary meaſure, dictated in conſequence of the enterprizes, which have grown out of the preſent European war, rendered the more neceſſary from the number of Britiſh Factors, who now pervade the United States from *Georgia* to *New-Hampſhire*; ſo that without the intervention of a Navigation Act, we ſhall ſoon ſee our ſhips and veſſels rotting at our wharves; while Britiſh ſhips and veſſels, will find ready and generous freights, and employments, to the injury, and ruin of many of our moſt uſeful citizens.

Ship owners of the United States, look forward to the event of peace! and conſider what will then be your ſituation, unleſs you ſpeedily adopt the meaſure herein propoſed.

MERCATOR.

A certain Cure for the Yellow Fever.

(From a late London Paper.)

Humanity leads me to acquaint the public, through your paper, that the Eſſence of Spruce, uſed in the following manner, will not only, on the firſt appearance of the fever, almoſt inſtantly remove it, but that it has, in almoſt every inſtance, likewiſe done ſo at the very criſis of the diſorder. Take Eſſence of Spruce the quantity of three table ſpoons full, and mix it with a quart of water, cold, that has boiled; take of this, on the very firſt ſymptom, the quantity of half a pint—repeat it once or twice a day; or if the fever has got any hold, increaſe the quantity. This diſcovery was made by the Maſter of an Ordinance tranſport at St Domingo, who, not having the means of making Beer of the Spruce, moſt happily tried the Spruce itſelf on 14 of his crew, all of whom were, by the Medical people, declared paſt recovery, but one of whom died. Capt. Ball, of his Majeſty's ſhip Argonaut, heard of this, and uſed it on upwards of 100 of his officers and ſhip's company, ill at one time, and it preſerved the lives of every one of theſe people. The Spruce was, from its happy effects, taken by many people moderately, to prevent the diſorder appearing, and it did ſo. I have no motive but what humanity dictates, in giving you this; and I truſt you will publiſh it in any way you judge proper in your paper. The diſcovery is of a very infant date; but the effects promiſed from it are likely to be the moſt happy, as it carries the bile through the body, when no other medicine (for ſo it is now deemed) will reſt on the ſtomach.

An Ingenious Theory of Volney.

If Thunder is conſtantly attended with clouds, and they are abſolutely neceſſary to its exiſtence, it muſt be cauſed by ſome of their elements. But in what manner are clouds formed? By the evaporation of water. How is this evaporation effected? By the preſence of the element of fire. Water of itſelf is not volatile; ſome agent is neceſſary to raiſe it; this agent is fire; and hence, and has been already obſerved, "evaporation is always in proportion to the heat applied to the water." Each particle of water is rendered volatile by a particle of fire, and, unqueſtionably, alſo, by a particle of air combined with it. This combination may be regarded as a neutral ſalt; comparing it with nitre, we may ſay the water in it repreſents the alkali, and the fire the nitrous acid. The clouds, thus compoſed, float in the atmoſphere until they meet with ſomething that ſeparates their conſtituent parts. If, from any cauſe, theſe particles are ſuddenly diſunited, a detonation is the conſequence, accompanied as in nitre with exploſion and light. The igneous matter, and air, being inſtantly diſſipated by the ſhock, the water which was combined with them, reſtored to its natural gravity, falls precipitately from the height to which it has been elevated; and hence the violent ſhowers, which follow loud claps of thunder, and which happen, generally, at the end of ſtorms, the igneous matter being then expended. Sometimes the particles of fire being combined with the air only, it melts like nitre; and this it is doubtleſs, which produces thoſe lightnings when no thunder is heard, called fires of the horizon (*feux d'horizon**). But is this igneous matter diſtinct from the electric? Does it obſerve peculiar laws and affinites in its combinations and detonations? This is what I ſhall not take upon me to examine. Theſe reſearches are not ſuited to a narrative of travels: I ought to confine myſelf to facts; and the few explanatory remaks I have added, though they were naturally ſuggeſted by them, have already led me too far from my ſubject.

* *Shooting ſtars ſeem alſo to be a particular combination of igneous matter. The Maronites of Mar Elias aſſured me that one of theſe ſtars falling, three years ago, on two mules of the convent, killed them both, making an exploſion like the report of a piſtol, and leaving no more traces than thunder.*

The Subſcriber has Several

LIKELY HORSES,

Which he will Sell for Caſh or on a ſhort Credit.

JAMES BROMLEY.

December 12, 1796. (tf)

Joſeph T. Blanchard,

Has juſt received, and for SALE at his STORE in OLD-STREET, a few Doors below the LITTLE BRIDGE, the following Articles, viz.

WEST I. Rum,
N. E. ditto,
Peach and Apple Brandy,
Molaſſes,
Loaf and Brown Sugar,
Chocolate,
Coffee,
Soap,
Looſe and Sack Salt,
Powder and Shot,
Race and Ground Ginger,
Copperas,
Pepper and Allſpice,
Nutmegs,
Cinnamon,
Mace and Cloves.

Alſo a ſmall invoice of COTTON CARDS aſſorted—the above articles will be ſold cheap for Caſh, or Country Produce.

Peterſburg, Dec. 19, 1796. (8)

BLANK BILLS OF EXCHANGE,
For SALE at this OFFICE.

Thirty Dollars Reward.

STOLEN out of my Stable in the night of the 2d inſtant, a PALE BAY HORSE, about 8 years old laſt ſpring, 5 feet high, long mane and tail, ſhod all round; he trots, paces, and canters, is in good order, and there is only one white ſpot on him, and that is on his near ſhoulder. I will give the above reward for the Horſe, and no queſtions aſked.

ROBERT EVANS, jun.

Peterſburg, Nov. 5, 1796.

For FREIGHT,

THE BRIG
FRIENDSHIP,
Capt. EAMES,

Lying at Broadway, wants about 100 hhds. tobacco on freight, and will proceed to any port that may be agreed on. For terms apply to the Captain on board, or to

N. & J. EUSTIS.

Who have juſt received by ſaid Brig, a few bales of TICKLENBURGS, GERMAN OZNABURGS, and ROLLS; New England RUM in hhds. French BRANDY in pipes—which will be ſold very low. Alſo a quantity of Mountain BUTTER in firkins.

Peterſburg, December 19, 1796.

D. Mackenzie,

HAS received by the late arrivals from LONDON and LIVERPOOL his

FALL GOODS,

And daily expects the balance, ſome of which are in ſmall packages, to ſuit country ſtores, and will be ſold at a low advance by the package or piece.

He has alſo come to hand,
Sack and Looſe SALT,
Beſt Green COFFEE, in bags barrels and tierces,
Brown and Loaf SUGAR,
Genuine Sherry WINE, of ſuperior quality,
FRENCH BRANDY, of firſt quality.

All of which will be ſold cheap for Caſh, produce, or on ſhort credit.

Peterſburg, October 24, 1796. (tf.)

NEW BOOKS,

FOR SALE AT THIS OFFICE.

BLAIR'S SERMONS. (Likewiſe a few of the 2d Vol. for thoſe ſubſcribers who have received but the firſt Vol.)
DE LOLME'S view of the Conſtitution of England, which is compared both with the Republican form of government, & the Monarchies in Europe—neatly bound 6s.
Biſhop SEABURY'S Sermons—2 Vol. 8o. 12s.
BATES on Redemption, 6s.
Vicar of Wakefield, 2s. 3d.
Chriſtian Reſolutions, or thoughts on Religion—by Biſhop BEVERIDGE, 2s. 3d.
Religion of the faſhionable world, 2s 3d.
Hiſtory of the Pelewites, a new and wonderful nation, lately diſcovered in the Great South Sea, by the ſhipwreck of the unfortunate Capt. WILSON, 2s 3d.
RUSSELL'S ſeven famous Sermons, 2s. 3d.
Thoughts on repentance, by a Clergyman of the Epiſcopal church, 7½d.
LEWIS'S church Catechiſm explained for the uſe of children, recommended by Biſhop MADISON, 9d.
MANNERS' 16 Sermons—excellent for poor families, price 2s. 3d.
Friendly Inſtructor, or a Companion for Young Ladies and Gentlemen—warmly recommended by Dr. DODDRIDGE, price 9d.
Sure and certain methods of attaining a long and healthy life, by CORNARO, an Italian nobleman, when he was near an hundred years of age, 2s 3d.
Sermons on the education of youth—by Dr. DODDRIDGE, price 2s. 6d.
The Mourner, or a choice cordial for thoſe who have loſt dear friends, 2s. 3d.
Token for Children, or curious hiſtory of ſome wonderful children, 2s. 3d.
Silvan Letters, 2s.
NELSON'S Inſtructions for young perſons preparing to be confirmed by the Biſhop, 4½d.
Fables for the Ladies, 1s
Golden Cabinet of Secrets—a jewel for families, price 3s.
Bibles, Teſtaments, Spelling books, &c. with many pretty little books for children.

ALSO,

A FEW MAPS of the State of KENTUCKY.

FOR SALE,

And immediate poſſeſſion given,

BETWEEN 3 and 4000 acres of LAND, lying on Cocke's creek, in the county of Mecklenburg, the fertility as well as the pleaſant ſituation of which is ſo well known, a deſcription is thought unneceſſary.

The Land may be divided in ſuch a manner as to ſuit the purchaſers, provided the whole or nearly the quantity can be diſpoſed of. There is on this Land a Dwelling with three rooms below and three above ſtairs, with a cellar bricked from the foundation, and with a ſmall repair may be made both comfortable and convenient—a Kitchen, Dairy, Smoke-houſe, Stable, and Barns. The whole of this plantation is in good order for cropping, and under good fences. One fifth of the purchaſe money will be expected for this Land on a deed being made the purchaſer, and any reaſonable credit given for the balance—but a generous diſcount will be made for all caſh paid.

On the 4th Tueſday in January next, will be expoſed to ſale on the above premiſes, for one half caſh, the balance in twelve months, between 40 and 50 choice NEGROES, conſiſting of men, women, boys and girls, of different ages—The Stock of CATTLE, HORSES, and HOGS, on a credit of ſix months, with the plantation utenſils—And for caſh or tobacco only, a large quantity of CORN and FODDER.

All thoſe to whom the ſubſcriber is indebted, will be obliging enough to wait the above period, when their ſeparate demands ſhall be nearly or full paid.—Thoſe who do not chooſe to be thus lenient will pleaſe notify me thereof by letter, or if more agreeable to them receive part of the above property in payment.

FRANCIS RUFFIN.

SURRY, October 3, 1796.